SYNOPSIS

TOPIC

THE IMPACT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON THE ATTITUDINAL, SELF-EFFICACY AND THE STATUS VALUE OF FEMALE.

A SYNOPSIS SUBMITTED FOR THE ENROLMENT AS A RESEARCH SCHOLAR FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY

(UNDER FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE)

SUBMITTED BY

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TOPIC:-

THE IMPACT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON THE ATTITUDNAL, SELF-EFFICACY AND THE STATUS VALUE OF FEMALE.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM :

Women empowerment is a significant issue globally. Women empowerment is the ability of women to make decision from the various option provided according to their wishes and get results from those choice (Habib sultan and Yahaya,2020). Women empowerment is a major to achieve the socio-psychological goal of gender equality. It is mission giving promise for human rights and social justice to human being, in other words, it is a provision for giving equal opportunities to male and female in all over their fields of human activities irrespective of their being he (men) or she (women). Empowerment, in general means, power to, power with and power within were by a person gains control over material assets intellectual resources and ideology. It is process of awareness and conscientization of personality building whereby one could gain self-efficacy, self-confidence, enhance self-esteem, and get read of anxieties and feeling of inferiority complexion.

For women in particular, it is her ability to assert power at multiple levels for self, For family, For community, For society and for nation. In fact, it incorporates women welfare, women development and women empowerment all in one. It covers six distinct but interconnected dimensions of psychological, social, cultural, political, legal and economical.

In India, the year 2001 was declared as "Women Empowerment Year" and various legislative measures were enacted to lay stress that women are equal partners like men.

In this context, the questions are arisen: what could be the psychological impacts of women empowerment on our traditional male dominated society? Has it brought any change at the behavioral, attitudinal and value level of females? Are men's mentally prepared to accept the change and give power share to women? The present study aims to probe some such aspects.

3. RESERCH COVERAGE THEME AND AREA :

Human rights to a woman mean her liberation from the traditional bonds and discrimination, improvement in her concept of self and she in relation to the environment and physical opportunity of women. So, human rights need a change in the perception and the value characteristics of old Indian culture where women are taught that they are inferior to men and that men have a social privilege to dominate over women. This could be perceived in every aspect of a woman's life ranging from her early socialization in the family to schooling, employment and cultural practices. From early childhood, mostly in rural areas and in poor families, heavy load of domestic duties, sibling care, cooking, fetching water as well as minding the house rob girls of childhood. Adolescent girls, who are unschooled, are married at an early age by arrangement. They attain teenage motherhood which robs of their mental health, physical health and her beauty.

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Social justice and empowerment are inseparable components of human rights of women and this could not be achieved without women's development which comprises of women's choices, opportunities, freedoms and participation in decision making. Women's choices include among others, better diet, shelter and clothing, access to income and job opportunities, education, health care, self-governance and enjoyment of social, economic and political freedoms. Educational facilities for the girl child, skill development programs for the young adult women, and employment facilities for the housewife are essential in this context. Psychologically, mental health, physical health and nutritional status have a direct correlation to the development of women. This is a powerful detriment of learning ability and adult intelligence.

From psychological point of view, the biggest hurdle for a woman's access to human rights is gender inequality and lack of freedom. This dichotomy restricts functions, space, access and rewards. It is encouraging to note that the Indian constitution gives guarantee of gender equality. The political and civil rights are termed as the fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the constitution. The social and economic rights are generally known as Directive Principles of state policy, enshrined in Part IV of the constitution. The constitution gives guarantees to equal opportunities to male and female in all spheres of human activities.

The year 2001 was declared as "Women Empowerment Year". By providing political reservation and quota system to women of the weaker sections of society in the Panchayati and Local self-bodies, the government has enforced empowerment. Right to education, special literacy drives for girls' education, health care and opportunities for employment and many welfare schemes have empowered women socially and economically.

The theme of the present work is to study the psychological impact of women empowerment on women with regards to their change in the self-confidence, self-efficacy and status value and their overall behavioral attitude towards self in the society. The area of study would cover few districts in the Mithilanchal region.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Women empowerment is directly linked with Human Rights and Social justice for women. Vast literature is available on this topic in the subjects of social science. In Psychology, this is connected with 'gender roles' assigned to women specially in cultures which resist changes. India having diverse traditional cultures is one such country. In American Journal of Psychology, huge works on 'gender roles' have been done but these cover people of U.S.A. and countries of Latin America and Africa. Good knowledge and attitudes will ultimately increase self-efficacy and it has an impact on healthy living behaviour (Bandura, 2009).

Improving women's empowerment can be done through socialization and education to increase knowledge and attitudes to create healthy life behaviours (Kafaei-Atrian et al., 2022).

The UN Charter for Human Rights and developments provide various guidelines of achieving Human Welfare. The Cairo conference in 1994 organised by the UN on

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population and Development called attention to Women's Empowerment as a Central focus and UNDP developed the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) which focuses on the three variables that reflect women's participation in society, Political power or decision making, education and health. 1995 UNDP report was devoted to women's empowerment which laid stress that women's emancipation does not depend on national income, GPD growth but is an engaged political process.

The idea was drawn from Amartya Sen's work on "Human Capabilities" which created new matrix for human development, The list of capabilities necessary for women for truly human functioning include elements of-

I. Life:- Being able to live a normal life; not dying prematurely.

II. Health:- Being able to have good health; having opportunities for sex satisfaction and for choice in matters of reproduction.

III. Emotions :- Being able to have attachments, to love, to grieve, to experience longing gratitude and justified anger.

IV. Senses :- Imagination, thought, being able to use the senses, to imagine, to think and reason in truly human way. Being able to use one's mind and imagination protected by freedom of expression.

V. Affiliation

VI. Play – Being able to laugh, play and enjoy

VII. Control over one's environment : i) Political ii) Material

These capabilities cover the so called "first generation rights" (political and civil liberties) as well as the "second generation rights" (economic and social rights). The UN Beijing conference 1995 has outlined the qualitative and quantitative indicators of women empowerment.

The list in exhaustive but covers mainly Education, Health, Political, Decision making. The qualitative measures lay stress on increase of awareness on health, enhancement of self-esteem and self-confidence, positive changes in social activities, recognition of women's contribution within and outside the household, decrease in violence on girls and women etc. The quantitative indicators refer to mortality trait, fertility rate, sex ratio, physical health status, nutrition level, girl literacy, wage rates, employment etc.

The principle of gender equality is already enshrined in the Indian constitution and is included in Fundamental Rights and Duties, in its preamble and Directive Principles. The Government of India has brought various legislations to improve the status, role and political participation of women in our society. There had been gradual shift in its policy from "women Empowerment". The year 2001 was declared as the "Women Empowerment year".

The concept of women empowerment is vast and covers almost all areas of human activities. However, from psychological point of view, it is a measure to achieve the goal of gender equality and in particular, in the Indian context, it is women's emancipation

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and liberation from the traditional bonds of many cultures and discrimination in her concept of self and relation to the environment and structural opportunity.

5. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY:

In spite of political and economic empowerment, the mission of gender equality would remain incomplete unless women's ability to assert themselves is achieved at the psychological level. Increase in self-esteem, individual and collective confidence, increase in articulation, knowledge and awareness on health, nutrition, reproductive rights; women's decision making over her work and income are some of the qualitative indicators of women empowerment. The psychological test relates to attitude test and to value test, self-confidence test and self-efficacy test, ego strength and security-in security test.

Attitude consists of three components:- (i) affective (ii) cognitive and (iii) behavioural. Status is defined as a position that an individual or a group holds in the society (MacIver, 1937) as determined by a cluster of attributes. According to Ralf Linton (1993), the eminent anthropologist, a status is collection of rights and duties that could be either achieved or ascribed. The empowerment has brought change in attitudinal and status value of women.

Psychologically, the concept of self is that an which each person hangs his individuality as a human being. It is not born solely within us rather it is an end product of our interaction with others. The core of our individuality lies in our perception of our "self" has been conceived differently by different scholars. Allport, Aldler, Jung, Lecky, Rogers and others have their own definitions. But for the present study self-efficacy is the picture and estimation that one holds about himself and it is his/her own "self-esteem".

The aim of present work is to study the impact of empowerment on the status of the women of Mithila. Samples would cover Mithilanchal area comprising namely the Darbhanga, Madhubani and Samastipur district. Women of all states would be examined and their status and roles in the dimension of family, social, economic, educational and political would be probed. Do the socio-cultural constraints and attitudinal fixity in women of traditional society of Mithila obstruct the path of improvement in the status value of women? The question is relevant at present. The psychological test would comprise of (i) status of women scale by N L karna & prasad Madhulika (1998) (ii) Attitude scale by N.S Chauhan & L. Singh (1979) and (iii) self efficacy scale (2002) by sonali snd, Ralf Schwarzer and Malthius Jerusaalem.

6. HYPOTHESIS :-

The women empowerment has brought significant psychological impact in the society. The following hypothesis is made with regards to the women of Mithila.

1. There will be significant positive correlation between empowered women's attitude and self-efficacy.
2. There will be no significant correlation in between status and self-efficacy of empowered women.

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3. Empowered women, in general, will exhibit positive correlation between their status and attitude.
4. The overall educated empowered women will be found to enjoy better value in all dimensions, in compared to their non educated counterpart.
5. There will be significant difference in status between rural and urban empowered women.
6. The upper class empowered women would hold a better status than those of scheduled caste and backward class women.
7. There would be significant difference between empowered educated women and non-educated women at the self-efficacy scale.
8. Urban empowered women would score more on self-efficacy scale compared to their rural counterpart.
9. The empowered scheduled caste and backward class women would not differ significantly at the self-efficacy level.
10. The attitudinal change in rural women, in all dimensions, would be more prominent compared to the Urban counterpart as a result of empowerment.
11. There will be no significant difference in attitude towards social change, social distance and social revolution between educated and non-educated empowered women.
12. The attitudinal level in the women of backward class would be higher than those of the upper class."
13. As a result of empowerment there will be significant difference in attitude score between backward and scheduled caste women.

7. METHODOLOGY:-

Sample –

The sample shall comprise of two hundred women belonging to the Mithilanchal area of Darbhanga, Samastipur and Madhubani districts who hold political posts at panchayat levels and Block levels; in Zila Parishads and in Nagar Nigams. They are selected from upper class (UC) Backward & most backward class (BC) and Scheduled caste (SC) categories such that the number in each class is almost the same. They are chosen from both rural and urban habitats covering both educated and non-educated (just literate) categories of women. Categories such that the number in each class is almost the same. They are chosen from both rural and urban habitats covering both educated and non-educated (just literate) categories of women.

Study Tools :-

(1). Status of Women Scale (SWS) by N. L. Karna & Prasad Madnulika (1988)-50 Questionnaires (Hindi).

(2) Attitude Scale by N. S. Chauhan & L. Singh (1979)-75 questions in Hindi (in the dimensions of social change, social distance and social revolution have been accepted).

(3) Self Efficacy Scale by Sonali Sud, Ralf Schwarger & Malthias Jerusalem (2002)-10 item: (Hindi)

Statistical Techniques used -

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To test the hypothesis framed, the mean, standard Deviation and the Pearson's coefficient of correlation between different demographic groups of the sample under study would be calculated and the 't' test ratio would be measured to test the significant difference between pair of groups.

WORK DESIGN: TENTATIVE PLAN OF THE WORK

Chapters in the thesis will be arranged as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction including review of literature

Chapter II: Objectives and Hypothesis

Chapter III: Methodology

Chapter IV: Results and Discussions

Chapter V: Summary, Inferences and conclusions

Chapter VI: References

IMPORTANCE OF WORK

The vision of 'gender equality' is glorious. The concept is not new but the commitment to bring it to the grass-root is terrific. The constitution of India gives guarantee to fulfill this commitment after sixty years of the enactment of the constitution, where does the society stand? Various legislative and welfare measures have been enforced and development schemes have been brought. 2001 AD was declared as "women empowerment year". However, till today women have not been given due political representation in parliament and State Assemblies. Government lacks will power and the society is Psychologically unprepared to bring change in male dominated cultures. The subject matter is interesting since it affords promise to research students of social science for exploring new dimensions and components of empowerment and inventing more research tools. scales and questionnaires.

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